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# CITRUS

## MAY FORECAST

### MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE



**FLORIDA  
AGRICULTURE**

May 12, 2000

#### ALL ORANGES REMAIN AT 228.0 MILLION BOXES

The 1999-00 Florida all orange forecast, released today by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, is unchanged at 228.0 million boxes. If attained, this will be the second largest utilized crop, surpassed only by the 1997-98 crop of 244.0 million boxes. In the past 10 non-freeze seasons, the May forecast has differed from final utilization by an average of 0.9 percent.

#### EARLY AND MIDSEASONS FINAL AT 134.0 MILLION BOXES

The Early and Midseason portion is final at 134.0 million boxes. This is the third largest crop, only four percent less than the record 1997-98 production or 140.0 million boxes and slightly less than the 134.2 million boxes of the 1996-97 season.

In spite of some fruit loss from Hurricane Irene in October and relatively dry weather all winter, droppage was lower than average. Average fruit sizes also were larger than anticipated. With the ideal weather for harvest in the winter months, final utilization is 10 million boxes or eight percent greater than forecast in October.

Citrus production, May 1, 2000  
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1997-98	1998-99	Apr 11, 2000	May 12, 2000
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	- - - 1,000 boxes - - -			
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>134,000</b>	<b>134,000</b>
California	44,000	21,000	40,000	40,000
Texas	1,350	1,250	1,500	1,500
Arizona	350	550	550	550
Total Above Varieties	185,700	134,800	176,050	176,050
Valencias:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>104,000</b>	<b>74,000</b>	<b>94,000</b>	<b>94,000</b>
California	25,000	15,000	27,000	27,000
Texas	175	180	300	200
Arizona	650	600	350	350
Total Valencias	129,825	89,780	121,650	121,550
All Oranges:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>244,000</b>	<b>186,000</b>	<b>228,000</b>	<b>228,000</b>
California	69,000	36,000	67,000	67,000
Texas	1,525	1,430	1,800	1,700
Arizona	1,000	1,150	900	900
Total All Oranges	315,525	224,580	297,700	297,600

#### FORECAST DATES 1999-00 SEASON

June 9, 2000

July 12, 2000

The **Navel** portion, included in the early and midseasons, is also final at 5.4 million boxes, the same as forecast in October. The latest Row Count survey shows some unharvested rows as is the case with some of the other specialty crops.

#### VALENCIAS UNCHANGED

The forecast of Valencias is unchanged from last month at 94.0 million boxes. This is 20 million boxes or 27 percent more than the 74.0 million boxes utilized last season. The final objective count surveys of the season conducted in April continue to show sizes above the average and droppage at near record low. In spite of the dry spring, Valencias have maintained quality and size/weight relationships indicate very little loss in juice.

The monthly Row Count survey, conducted May 1-2, shows 48 percent of the rows picked, the lowest in over ten seasons. Harvest has been over eight million boxes per week for the previous two weeks. Only spot shortages of harvest labor have been reported at this time. The Row Count survey fully supports the current forecast.

#### FCOJ 1.54 GALLONS PER BOX

The all orange FCOJ yield is held at 1.54 gallons of 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate per box. The early and midseason portion was final at 1.475739 gallons per box on report number 24 from the Florida Citrus Processors Association.

The late season (Valencia) orange yield is increased to 1.66 gallons per box from 1.64 last month. However, a smaller percentage of boxes are going into FCOJ this year. Other processed products such as not from concentrate juices are using the greater quantity.

April was again a very dry month. Growers and caretakers irrigated most of this past month to maintain good tree condition during this all important fruit set period. Virtually all groves were through blooming by the second week of the month.

## SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT UP 3.0 MILLION BOXES

The total seedless grapefruit forecast is increased 3.0 million boxes, to 48.5 million boxes. The white seedless is raised 1.0 million boxes, to 19.5 million, and colored seedless is increased 2.0 million, to 29.0 million boxes. This is the first change in the forecast since November 1999, when a downward adjustment was made, as indicated by a hurricane resurvey. Last season only 17.8 million boxes of whites and 28.7 million boxes of the colored varieties were recorded.

The Row Count survey, conducted on May 1-2, indicated the potential for the unharvested rows to provide the remaining volume to achieve this forecast. But many of the remaining rows have been "spot picked" heavily and may not have the remaining irregular bloom fruit gleaned. In addition, there are a number of smaller, marginal blocks that most probably will not be harvested because of the current price structure and lack of demand for processing. The forecasts are based on final recorded certifications by the Division of Fruit and Vegetables, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

As of April 30, the estimated certifications of white seedless grapefruit (as shown in Report #30, by the Citrus Administrative Committee) were 18,054 million boxes (including 0.4 million boxes of gift and other use) and 27,643 million boxes of colored seedless (including 0.8 million boxes of gift and other use).

## SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT NOW 600,000 BOXES

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit is up 100,000 boxes to 600,000 boxes. This variety was initially forecast at the 500,000 level, because of recent historic

Citrus production, May 1, 2000  
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1997-98 <sup>1/</sup>	1998-99	Apr 11, 2000	May 12, 2000
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>49,550</b>	<b>47,050</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>49,100</b>
<b>Seedless</b>	<b>48,900</b>	<b>46,500</b>	<b>45,500</b>	<b>48,500</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>18,300</b>	<b>17,800</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>19,500</b>
<b>Colored</b>	<b>30,600</b>	<b>28,700</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>29,000</b>
<b>Seedy (Other)</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>600</b>
Texas	4,800	6,100	5,500	5,700
Arizona	800	750	850	850
California	8,000	7,500	8,000	8,000
<b>Total Grapefruit</b>	<b>63,150</b>	<b>61,400</b>	<b>60,350</b>	<b>63,650</b>
Lemons:				
California	21,000	16,200	20,000	20,000
Arizona	2,600	3,450	3,100	3,100
<b>Total Lemons</b>	<b>23,600</b>	<b>19,650</b>	<b>23,100</b>	<b>23,100</b>
<b>Limes: Florida</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>(Final) 600</b>	<b>(Final) 600</b>
<b>Temples: Florida</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>1,950</b>
<b>Tangelos: Florida</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,200</b>
<b>K-Early: Florida</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>
Tangerines:				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>4,950</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>6,900</b>
Early <sup>2/</sup>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>4,400</b>
Honey	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,500</b>
California <sup>3/</sup>	2,400	1,500	2,100	2,100
Arizona <sup>3/</sup>	600	950	900	900
<b>Total Tangerines</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>9,900</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes 6 million boxes of economic abandonment in Fl: 5 million white seedless and 1 million colored. <sup>2/</sup> Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes tangelos.

certifications. Last season 550,000 boxes were certified. Certifications through April 30 were estimated to be 538,000 boxes.

The Row Count survey indicated about 10 percent of the rows remaining, but recent weekly utilizations have shown only a few thousand boxes recorded. Recording of this variety is dependent on load tickets at the processing plants.

## ALL TANGERINES 6.9 MILLION BOXES

The forecast for all tangerines is raised to 6.9 million boxes. The early portion, comprised of **Robinson, Fallglo, Dancy, and Sunburst**, is complete at 4.4 million boxes. The late portion, **Honey** tangerines, is increased 0.1 million boxes to 2.5 million boxes.

The weekly estimated certifications of **Honey** tangerines have declined only slightly in the last month, with the predominance going into fresh channels. The Row Count survey of May 1-2, indicated about nine percent of the rows had some remaining fruit. As of April 30, it is estimated that about 2.3 million boxes had been utilized. The final estimate of utilization will be dependent on the quality and demand for the remaining amount. If realized, this crop would be almost 32 percent larger than last season's and surpassed only by the record 2.8 million boxes recorded in 1979-80.

## TEMPLES REDUCED TO 1.95 MILLION BOXES

The Temple forecast is lowered 0.15 million boxes to 1.95 million boxes. Estimated certifications as of April 30, are slightly over 1.9 million boxes. However, the last three weeks of utilization have shown no movement.

The Row Count survey showed about six percent of the rows with some fruit but demand and quality preclude full utilization. This forecast would indicate a crop size eight percent more than last season's 1.8 million boxes, which was the smallest non-freeze crop since the record crop of 6.0 million boxes in 1979-80.

## TANGELOS FINAL AT 2.2 MILLION BOXES

The 1999-2000 tangelo crop is final at 2.2 million boxes. Although the Row Count survey shows about five percent of the rows having some fruit, there has been no recorded utilization in the past month. This crop is almost 14 percent smaller than last season's and 23 percent smaller than the crop two seasons ago. Also, it is about one-third the size of the record 6.4 million boxes recorded in 1979-80.

## K-EARLY CITRUS 110,000 BOXES

The K-Early harvest is complete at 110,000 boxes, about 25 percent below the average of the past ten seasons but higher than the smallest crops which occurred the past two seasons when production fell below 100,000 boxes. Most of this crop was processed. The production high of 600,000 boxes was recorded for three consecutive seasons beginning in 1978-79.

**Unadjusted Maturity Tests: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 1998-99 and 1999-00 seasons**

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	
Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.										
<b>ORANGES:</b>										
Late (108-141)										
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.51	2.53	8.71	8.61	3.56	3.44	45.33	43.28	3.95	3.73
Nov 1	2.09	2.12	9.05	8.77	4.37	4.20	50.42	47.60	4.56	4.18
Dec 1	1.64	1.73	10.01	9.87	6.19	5.77	53.07	51.51	5.31	5.09
Jan 1	1.38	1.51	10.85	10.84	7.96	7.27	54.26	52.39	5.88	5.68
Feb 1	1.30	1.36	12.08	11.74	9.42	8.70	55.04	52.75	6.65	6.20
Mar 1	1.22	1.23	12.65	12.55	10.76	10.28	53.46	52.46	6.78	6.59
Apr 1	1.07	1.05	13.38	12.96	12.62	12.43	55.38	52.27	7.42	6.78
May 1	0.90	0.93	13.80	13.40	15.42	14.59	54.45	52.55	7.52	7.04

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and no restrictors are used.

**Maturity test averages by areas, May 1, 2000**

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds
<b>ORANGES:</b>						
Late						
Indian River Dist.	16	0.97	14.02	14.71	52.93	7.42
Other Areas	75	0.92	13.26	14.56	52.47	6.96

**FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS**

Size frequency distributions from the April size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period April 18 through 28, 2000. Comparable sizes for 1998 and 1999 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

**FLORIDA CITRUS:** Size frequency distributions from March measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1998	1999	2000
--- Percent ---			
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	9.1	5.9	10.5
80	22.9	21.9	25.9
100	35.8	38.3	35.0
125	23.8	25.1	20.1
163 and smaller	8.4	8.8	8.5

The chart to the right compares the relationship of the April 2000 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in April 1999. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest value.

**CHART:** Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from April measurements.

